



Opposition to SB 283
Oral and written testimony by Lisa Haack, Executive Director for
Leavenworth County Development Corporation
March 5, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing us to testify in strong opposition of SB 283. This bill proposes a sunset on programs of which two I would like to highlight: the High Performance Incentive Program (HPIP) and the Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program, two essential tools that have driven economic growth, job creation, and capital investment in our state for the past decade.

As part of our Business Retention Expansion program here at Leavenworth County Development Corporation, we offer assistance with these programs for existing companies that are paying above average wages for their NAICS code and are investing in our community. Over the last ten years, these programs have played a pivotal role in fostering business expansion and economic vitality in Leavenworth County alone. The data clearly demonstrates their success. For the companies that we have assisted in Leavenworth County that have utilized the HPIP and PEAK programs, 12 companies have gained the following over the last 10 years (2015-2024):

- **HPIP tax credits totaling over \$8.8 million**, which have helped businesses reinvest in growth and innovation.
- **More than \$1.8 million in HPIP sales tax exemption savings**, allowing for companies to expand their businesses and enhance operations.
- **PEAK savings of over \$45,000**, incentivizing businesses to expand employment opportunities.

Those same 12 companies have also significantly invested in Leavenworth County during the 10-year period:

- **339 new jobs have been created** since 2015, strengthening our local workforce and providing stable employment opportunities.
- **Over \$102 million in capital investment**, fueling infrastructure improvements and business expansion that contribute to the long-term prosperity of our communities.

These figures are more than just numbers—they represent real economic impact, real jobs, and real investments that have strengthened Leavenworth County and the

broader Kansas economy. Great Western Manufacturing was established in Leavenworth in 1858 and is the oldest manufacturer in the state of Kansas. Cereal Ingredients, now CII Foods, began in 2004 with just 35 employees and has grown to over 200. Zephyr Products, established in 1979, recently doubled its footprint and moved its Missouri operations to its Kansas site.

Eliminating these programs would not only halt this progress but could also jeopardize future investments, making Kansas a less competitive place for business.

HPIP and PEAK have been critical in ensuring that our state remains attractive to both new and existing businesses. Companies have relied on these incentives to plan for long-term growth, and pulling these programs away would create uncertainty, deter future investment, and risk job losses in communities that depend on them.

I urge the committee to reject this proposal and instead focus on strengthening these programs to continue fostering economic growth, job creation, and business expansion across Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa R. Haack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Haack" clearly legible.

Lisa R. Haack
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